

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 HA-05 MCT-02 /080 W
-----047734 161201Z /43

R 142145Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

CONFIDENTIAL ASUNCION 2861

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM PINT PA
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAINO CASE

REF ASUNCION 2832

1. AT FRENCH BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION JULY 14, FOREIGN
MINISTER NOGUES BROUGHT AMBASSADOR TOGETHER WITH A DR.
JUAN NETTO WHO HAD EXAMINED DOMINGO LAINO EARLIER THAT
MORNING. NETTO STATED HE WAS ALINO'S FRIEND AND HAD
HIMSELF BEEN IN POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE PAST.
IN FRONT OF NOGUES, DR. NETTO SAID THAT LAINO WAS IN
GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION WITH NO OBVIOUS MARKS ON HIS
BODY BUT THAT HE WAS IN VERY POOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
CONDITION. THE AMBASSADOR LATER SOUGHT OUT DR. NETTO
ALONE. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY THAT LAINO WAS IN GOOD
PHYSICAL CONDITION BUT NEITHER WAS HE IN BAD CONDITION.
THE ONLY VISIBLE MARKS WERE FROM HANDCUFFS. HOWEVER,
THE DOCTOR SAID HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO LAINO PRIVATELY.
LAINO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO STAND FOR MORE THAN
60 HOURS CONTINUOUSLY ALTHOUGH THE DOCTOR DOUBTED IT
COULD HAVE BEEN THAT LONG. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY AND
DR. NETTO AGREED.

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2. THE GOP ALSO TRANSFERRED LAINO TO TACUMBU NATIONAL
PENITENTIARY JULY 14. THE POLICE REPORTEDLY SENT THE
LAINO CASE TO JUDGE ANTONIO ESCOBAR CANTERO JULY 13
FOR PROCESSING UNDER THE 1975 "FEBRERISTA" CASE IN WHICH
13 PERSONS WERE TRIED UNDER LAW 209. JUDGE ESCOBAR
THEN ORDERED LAINO TRANSFERRED UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION
PROCEDURES. IN TACUMBU HE WILL BE ALLOWED VISITS BY

FAMILY AND OTHERS.

3. THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO ISSUE STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN THIS CASE LABELING THEM AS ILLEGAL ACTS OF POLITICAL VENGEANCE. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO THOROUGHLY REPORT ALL ASPECTS OF THE CASE.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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